

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors and to make it consistent with the drawings and the claims.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2 which has been cancelled. Amended claim 1 also now recites that the first and second members of each of the at least two portions joined by the joining members do not overlap. Support for this limitation can be found, for example, on page 26, lines 1-12 of the specification and in FIGS. 7A and 7B. There the first member of crown portion 124 that extends to face portion 112 and a second member thereof do not overlap, nor does the first member of sole portion 126 that extends to face portion 112 overlap with a second member thereof, the first and second members of the crown portion being joined by joining member 140 or 144 and of the sole portion by joining member 142.

Withdrawn claims 3-5 have been cancelled and claims 8 and 9 amended to depend only from claim 1 and for clarity. Claim 7 has been retained as a withdrawn claim because it is believed that it can be rejoined once a claim of the scope of claim 1 is found allowable.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over Nishimusa et al. (JP 07-155410), in view of Soracco (USP 6,743,118). The indicated allowance of the subject matter of claim 8 is appreciated. However, it is believed that amended claim 1 and claims 6 and 9 dependent therefrom are also allowable.

The present invention, as set forth in amended claim 1, relates to a hollow golf club head comprising a face portion having an impact surface that impacts a golf ball

and is made from a metallic material, and a crown portion, a heel portion, a sole portion, and a toe portion that are adjacent to the face portion,

wherein, in at least two portions from among the crown portion, the heel portion, the sole portion, and the toe portion, at least one material of dissimilar metallic material that differs from the metallic material and a fiber reinforced plastic material is used in regions along edges that are adjacent to the face portion, within a range of 30 mm from the adjacent edges,

wherein said at least two portions from among the crown portion, the heel portion, the sole portion, and the toe portion are divided into two portions along the edges that are adjacent to the face portion, in regions within a range of 30 mm from the adjacent edges, each of said at least two portions having a first member that extends to the face portion and a second member as a portion other than the first member, and

joining portions are formed by joining members made from a fiber reinforced plastic material, each joining member joining the first member and the second member of each of said at least two portions, said first members not overlapping said second members.

The hollow golf club head of the present invention thus has a structure that easily deforms with respect to golf ball impacts. There is more deformation than with a conventional face portion, and, therefore, the coefficient of restitution of a struck golf ball can be increased, the initial velocity of the golf ball can be increased, and the carry distance can be increased.

While Nishimusa may show first and second members of the crown and sole portions that overlap each other in FIGS. 2 and 4, the reference does not show a

“joining member” for joining these first and second members. Nor does it show the first and second members not overlapping each other as now required by amended claim 1.

In Soracco, as best shown in FIG. 7, the golf club head 42 is formed by engaging frame member 60 with the undercut portion 62a of body 61. The frame member 60 and the body 61 are separate members, and it is the front wall 87 of the body 61 that corresponds to the face of the club. See col. 7, lines 61-62 and FIG. 8. The face plate of the club is not a part of frame member 60.

Thus, as in Nishimusa, there is no disclosure in Soracco of a joining member for the first and second members of the crown and sole portions or that they do not overlap each other as now set forth in amended claim 1. Nor would there have been any motivation in Soracco to provide a joining member to join the first and second members of the crown and sole portions of frame 60 and body 61 to allow the front wall 87 to easily deform because the front wall is a part of body 61.

For these reasons, it is believed claims 1, 6 and 9 as well as claim 8 are now in condition for allowance. If so, it is requested that withdrawn claim 7 be rejoined in the case.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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